

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /077 W

-----111019Z 005511 /12

R 110745Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9543

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ET, LY, SO, SU, YO, PFOR

SUBJECT: GOY VIEWS ON ETHIOPIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

REF: A) KHARTOUM 329 B) ADDIS ABABA 469

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAVS REPORTEDLY CAME AWAY FROM MINIC TALKS IN ADDIS (JAN 22-25) REASSURED BY WHAT THEY PERCEIVED AS DEPT OF COMMITMENT WITHIN MEMBERSHIP OF DIRGUE TO "SOCIALISM" AND NON-ALIGNMENT BUT WITH HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL FOR LONG-TERM DOMESTIC INSTABILITY AND FOR DIVISION WITHIN DIRGUE ITSELF. THOUGH COGNIZANT OF STRONG RESISTANCE

TO SUCH A MOVE BY SOME IN THE DIRGUE, MINIC IS SAID TO HAVE ADVISED EPMG TO GRANT ERITREA LARGE MEASURE OF AUTONOMY ("SIMILAR TO THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S REPUBLICS ENJOY") AS ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION TO ITS MOST DIVISIVE OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS. YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL DENIED GOY IS ATTEMPTING TO PLAY ROLE OF "MEDIATOR" IN ETHIOPIA'S DISPUTES WITH ITS  
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NEIGHBORS BUT CONFIRMED THAT IT DOES "CONVEY MESSAGES" FROM ONE TO ANOTHER OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED AND SPECIFIED THAT IT HAD RECENTLY DONE SO BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AT THE REQUEST OF BOTH. WHILE SAME OFFICIAL PREDICTABLY DECLINED COMMENT ON MILITARY COMPONENT OF GOY'S RELATIONS WITH THE HORN COUNTRIES, ETHIOPIAN DIP HERE (WHOSE RELIABILITY UNKNOWN) STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY

THAT YUGOSLAV MILITARY SALES TO ETHIOPIA CONTINUE.  
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET FEB 4 WITH FSFA OFFICER OF SUB-SAHARAN

AFRICA COUNS DUSA TE TO DISCUSS RECENT VISIT BY  
FONSEC MINIC TO ETHIOPIA, GOY VIEWS ON CURRENT AND  
POTENTIAL DISPUTES IN NORTHEAST AFRICA AND, BY FORTUITOUS  
TIMING, EVENTS IN ADDIS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. EGIC SAID  
MINIC HAD FOUND ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL SITUATION "EXTREMELY  
DANGEROUS", WITH CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR LONG-TERM  
INSTABILITY. HE ADDED THAT MINIC HAD ALSO FOUND DEEP  
AND ONLY THINLY DISGUISED DIVISIONS WITHIN DIRGUE ITSELF  
AND BELIEVED DIFFERENCES OVER METHOD OF HANDLING ERITREAN  
SITUATION WERE MOST THREATENING IN THIS REGARD. EGIC  
CLAIMED MINIC'S ASSESSMENT DIFFERED LITTLE FROM WHAT  
GOY HAD FOR SOME TIME BELIEVED TO BE THE CASE RE STABILITY  
WITHIN ETHIOPIA AND THE DIRGUE. DESPITE THE FOREGOING,  
MINIC WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING COME AWAY REASSURED THAT  
THE DIRGUE'S COMMITMENT TO "SOCIALISM" WAS IN FACT  
DEEPLY AND WIDELY HELD WITHIN THAT BODY, A QUESTION ON  
WHICH YUGOSLAVS HAD APPARENTLY HARBORED SOME DOUBTS  
PRIOR TO VISIT. NOTE: EGIC'S COMMENTS CONTRASTED  
SHARPLY WITH THOSE OF ETHIOPIAN DIP HERE TO EMBOFF A  
DAY EARLIER (PRESUMABLY PRIOR TO FORMER'S RECEIPT OF  
NEWS OF THAT DAY'S EVENTS IN ADDIS). ETHIOPIAN HAD  
MAINTAINED THAT IMPORTANCE OF MINIC VISIT LAY IN FACT  
THAT GOY'S DOUBTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA'S DOMESTIC STABILITY  
AND DIRGUE'S UNITY HAD BEEN LARGELY DISPELLED. ETHIOPIAN  
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HIMSELF APPEARED TO QUESTION DIRGUE'S COMMITMENT TO  
"SOCIALISM", THOUGH HIS PERSONAL BIASES ON THIS SUBJECT  
WERE FAIRLY OBVIOUS.

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /077 W

-----111019Z 005983 /11

R 110745Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9544

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 838

3. WHETHER ETHIOPIA WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD ERITREA DEPENDED UPON DEGREE OF UNITY WITHIN DIRGUE ITSELF ON THIS ISSUE, EGIC MAINTAINED. IF DIRGUE WERE UNITED, ERITREA COULD BE HELD. THOUGH AWARE OF STRONG OPPOSITION WITHIN DIRGUE TO SUCH A MOVE, MINIC HAD, ACCORDING TO EGIC, COUNSELED EPMG TO GRANT LARGE MEASURE OF AUTONOMY TO ERITREA AS ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. EGIC CHARACTERIZED RECOMMENDED SOLUTION AS AUTONOMY FOR ERITREA "SIMILAR TO THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S REPUBLICS ENJOY".

4. TRUE TO YUGOSLAV FORM, EGIC SHIED AWAY FROM ANY COMPARISON OF RELATIVE CLOSENESS OF GOY'S RELATIONS CONGRESS OF SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION.

5. EGIC (UNCONVINCINGLY) PLEADED IGNORANCE ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF GOY'S RELATIONS WITH THE THREE COUNTRIES. NOTE: AFOREMENTIONED ETHIOPIAN DIP, WHEN ASKED IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT RELATIVE STRENGTH OF YUGOSLAVIA'S TIES WITH HIS COUNTRY AND SOMALIA, SAID THAT "FOR EXAMPLE" YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT SELL MILITARY WARES TO SOMALIA BUT "ALWAYS HAD" AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUES TO DO SO TO ETHIOPIA. HE LIMITED ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE, HOWEVER, TO SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION.

6. ON STRENGTH OF ETHIOPIAN-LIBYAN TIES, EGIC SAID HE BELIEVED THAT, WHILE THEY WERE INDEED STRONG, THEY WERE LIMITED TO LIBYA'S PROVIDING "POLITICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT" TO EPMG AND DID NOT EXTEND FAR IF AT ALL INTO THE ECONOMIC OR MILITARY SPHERE.

7. AND FINALLY, ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION'S MUCH PUBLICIZED TIES WITH THE SOMALIS ACTED AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO STRENGTHENING YUGOSLAV-SOMALI RELATIONS, EGIC COMMENTED OBLIQUELY THAT THE SOMALIS "NEVER ADMITTED" TO YUGOSLAVS EXTENT OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. COMMENT: RADIO BELGRADE FEB 9 AND "POLITIKA" FEB 10

CARRIED REPORT THAT YUGOSLAV AMB IN ADDIS HAS BEEN CALLED IN FEB 8 BY "FIRST AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENTS" OF ETHIOPIA. THE TWO WERE SAID TO HAVE BRIEFED THE YUGOSLAV ON RECENT EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA AND TO HAVE ASSURED HIM THAT ETHIOPIA INTENDED TO "PROCEED ALONG THE PATH OF CONSTRUCTING SOCIALISM". THEY WERE FURTHER REPORTED AS HAVING PROMISED TO WORK TOWARD DEEPENING OF RELATIONS WITH GOY AND TO HAVE EXPRESSED THE DETERMINATION OF EPMG "IN SPITE OF THREATS FROM ABROAD, NOT TO FALL UNDER INFLUENCE OF BLOCS OR SUPER-POWERS BUT TO REMAIN NONALIGNED". PLEASING THOUGH SUCH RHETORIC ALWAYS IS TO THE YUGOSLAVS WE DOUBT THAT IN THE LIGHT OF MINIC'S ASSESSMENT AND LAST WEEK'S EVENTS THE GOY IS NOW GREATLY IMPRESSED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009